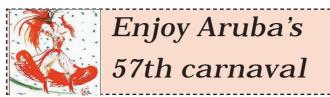
Tripartite meeting with significant results... pg 2



Educational courses for inmates at KIA

www.themorningnewsaruba.com · themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Celebration of Betico Croes Day begins with official memorial ceremony



Governor Refunjol and spouse, PM Eman and First Lady





PM Eman and Nicole Hoevertz place a bouquet

A day of exciting events and activities with which Aruba celebrates the first national holiday of the year, Betico Croes Day, began with the official memorial service at the Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad yesterday morning. Island dignitaries, including Governor Fredis Refunjol came to pay tribute to the Gilberto Francois Croes, who died in 1986. January 25 is a tribute to his birth date in 1938.

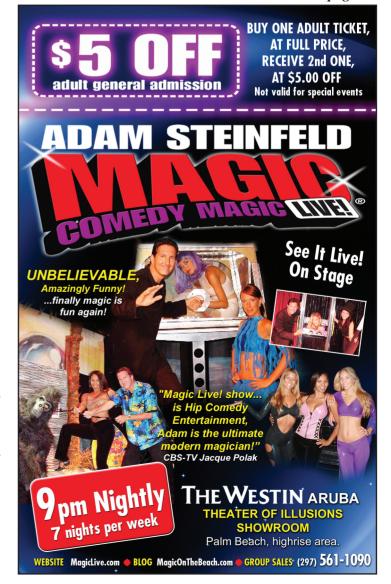
The simple, respectful ceremony dedicated to the man considered by many "El Libertador" because of his vital role in Aruba achieving Status Aparte, autonomous rule separate from the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles, is traditionally marked by the placement of floral wreaths at the foot of his statue in the plaza.

Offerings were made by President of the Parliament Paul Croes and Secretary of the Parliament, Jacqueline Bastien, on behalf of all parliamentarians. Prime Minister Mike Eman and Secretary of the Cabinet of Ministers, Nicole Hoevertsz, placed a bouquet on behalf of the Aruban Government. Gilberto Croes, Jr. with Glendelyne Croes represented the family and Evelyn Wever-Croes and



Presentation by the Croes family

Marilyn Croes placed a Betico Croes Foundation. wreath in the name of the Continued on page 2



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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Tripartite meeting with significant Celebration of Betico results and benefits for tourism, for all



On Friday, a tripartite meeting of the ministers of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaéao was held here to discuss matters concerning Tourism and Transport, which resulted in a number of important agreements for the three islands. The ministers of Bonaire and Curaçao were impressed with Aruba's initiative to hold a

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Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111 Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website: www.themorningnewsaruba.com meeting of this nature. Following the extensive meeting, the leaders of the three islands held a press conference to inform our people of the decisions reached.

Minister Oduber of Aruba expressed his appreciation for the presence of his Curação and Bonaire colleagues to this first and historic meeting. According to Oduber, the meeting was extremely productive resulting in crucial decisions of mutual cooperation in the region.

Of the four items on their agenda, they succeeded in reaching agreements on three of these. Three commissions were formed, which very shortly will present their advice to the dignitaries. The first commission is the airlift commission dealing with matters related to air transport. This commission will deliberate specifically on the intention of the ABC islands to open new markets and to explore the possibility for amplifying the existing markets with greater potential such as between Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Germany and Italy. The issue of airport tax will also be an item on the agenda of this commission.

With respect to airport tax there is already an agreement reached between Aruba and

Bonaire for a reduced tax tariff for travel between Aruba and Bonaire.

There will be a commission on Tourism which will be charged with exploring the possibilities already discussed and set to begin in March with the Sea Trade. Customarily each island would visit this event individually, but now this will be visited in unison as the ABC islands. This will give the three islands an important and ample presence.

Henceforth, the three islands, Aruba, Bonaire and Curação will engage in promotion as the ABC Alliance to cruise lines so as to maintain the cruise lines they already have and to attract more cruise business to our shores

The third commission is to study the possibility for cost sharing, and to report back to the dignitaries on this matter. The intention is to continue exploring the potential for marketing to Italy, Mexico and Chile and possibly Canada. The goal is to create more cooperation in the area of marketing.

With respect to aviation, the commission is charged with finding ways to jointly attract more airline seats from the above mentioned destinations that would benefit the three islands.

Continued on page 4

Croes Day ...

Continued from page 1



Evelyn Wever Croes and Marilyn Croes



Prime Minister Mike Eman gave the official address, reminding the gathering that because of his great dedication and sacrifice to the ideal of Status Aparte, a policy that would benefit all Arubans whatever their political affiliation, Betico Croes richly deserves the title "El Libertador," which goes beyond politics and controversy recently generated by some local radio talk shows. "We should all be inspired by his example and

those like him, who sacrificed much for the community in attaining autonomy for Aruba within the Dutch Kingdom."

Music and song was provided by the Coro Hubenil Briyante, under the direction of Tico Giel and the Orkestra Harmonico Arubano. This opened a day of exciting events at various island barrios, which finished with a grand street fair in the plaza last night.

by Rosalie Klein







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Announcement

We hereby announce the closure of the RBTT Boulevard Branch, L.G. Smith Boulevard 66, effective January 31, 2011.

The closure of the Boulevard Branch is driven by pursuit of one-stop service offerings with the convenience and ease of getting all your banking needs at a single location. We recommend you to use our Head Office branch located at Italiëstraat 36, Oranjestad, as this branch is spacious and offers ample parking space.

Our friendly staff will continue to strive to meet your financial needs and we look forward to being of further service to you in the future.



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Educational courses for inmates at KIA



The objective of the Enseñanza pa Empleo (Educa-Employment) for Program is to provide training for everyone in the community to obtain certain skills in order to improve their livelihood. In this context, they began offering courses to prisoners in the Aruba Prison facility (KIA). This will help inmates achieve certain skills which will enable them to return to the community equipped to find employment.

Currently courses in Tourism are being offered, among others, a waiters course. There is much interest on the part of inmates for

these courses. Eighteen males have registered for the Tourism Industry course, while 14 are enrolled in the Waiters course. From the female division of the prison, 14 women are enrolled in the Tourism Industry course and 12 have chosen for the Waiters course.

Each course has a duration of six weeks after which, upon successful completion, they will receive a certificate. This will undoubtedly be an important step in their reformation and preparation for reintegration into the community.

Soon they will begin offering a course in the Dutch

Language for those in the Young People Division of the prison system. The objective here is to offer these young people the opportunity to sit and pass the National Exams Dutch section.

EPE is evaluating whether to offer even more courses to inmates as the interest is very high. Tinister, Otmar Oduber has expressed his satisfaction for the work of EPE as they are contributing to the reformation of those who have fallen into the hands of the law for infractions of the law. When they are released they will be able to benefit from the opportunity received from EPE.

Three islands ministers meet, a huge success



A tripartite meeting of the Ministers of Tourism and Transport took place on Aruba to discuss tourism and transport. The Curacao Minister of Tourism, Abdul Nasser el Hakim, declared after this meeting that... "We are one people of three new islands and tourism is a tool we can use to influence the lives of our people, their wellbeing and quality of life."

It is for this reason that the three ministers sat down together to work together in order that 1+1+1 may become 10. According to Minister Hakim, this meeting certainly was a success and would produce the desired results.

The Bonaire Deputy, Elvis Tjin-Asjoe offered his thanks for having been invited to this first tripartite meeting on tourism. He made an important observation regarding Bonaire's new status as an integral part of the Netherlands. According to Elvis Tjin-Asjoe, Bonaire is now identified as a Caribbean Netherland island. This, he asserted can mean new ways of acquiring funds that can be used to finance projects that the ABC islands can achieve together in the area of tourism.

Tjin-Asjoe also referred to the long standing issue of the airport tax, and the decision to reduce the airport tax to \$20 departing from Aruba. More important is the current ongoing discussion and research exercise to reduce this exit tax even more, which must be an endeavor of the three islands. This should result in a new incentive for more travel between the ABC islands.



Tripartite meeting...

Continued from page 2

Also, regarding CTO (Caribbean Tourism Organization) of which most of the Caribbean islands are members; the group has taken a posi-

The position is that the ABC Alliance wants to see more benefits for our islands. If this is not realized these islands will be forced to relinquish their support to an organization that is not giving the deserved value and importance neither to the ABC islands nor to the Spanish speaking islands.

Aruba will take the initiative with the support of Cumunicate to CTO their insistence on getting more attention and support from CTO for our islands. An attempt will be made to form an alliance on this from the other islands in our vicinity.

Minister Oduber of Aruba, expressed gratitude for this productive tripartite meeting with colleagues from Curação and Bonaire; and also for the different directors and advisers from the ABC islands who came to discuss and share ideas and achieve conclusions and actions which will take effect shortly. Every decision reached will be beneficial to

raçao and Bonaire to comeach of the islands. **EGG DISHES LOCAL BREAKFAST** *2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese *Pan grandi (di rama) *Scrambled or baguette with ham, cheese, onions, *KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH) green pepper, tomato, mushroom *CONCH *Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, *FISH EGG tomato, mushroom *SHRIMPS All egg dishes are served with a choice of : *FISH FILLET white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread *FISH CAKE *CHICKEN SOUP *PASTECHI HORNA *CRÊPES *SWEET CRÊPES *FRUIT SALAD *BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg **& YOGHURT HOT BEVERAGES COLD BEVERAGES** Open: Monday - Sunday 7:00a.m. - 10:30p.m. For Reservations please call: 588-3648 Havenstraat 36, Suite 1B, Oranjestad (near the main dowtown bus terminal)

Hats off to the fashionable ladies of Aruba!



Governor's wife, Clarette Refunjol



keeps it simple



Minister Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar



Mrs Mike de Meza



A dazzling smile and hat from Mrs. Otmar Oduber





Mrs. Benny Sevinger



Parliamentarian Lorna Varlack



Genevieve Lieuw of the **Dutch Delgation to Aruba**



A feather arrangement for Mrs. Juan David Yrausquin



Candy, wife of parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn



The Betico Croes Day official protocol ceremony was no exception, and many demonstrated their fashion



Secretary of Parliament Jacqueline Bastien

sense when it comes to topping off the perfect outfit. Even Aruba's First Lady, Doina Eman-Neagoy, wno marches to a different drum and can be counted on to be tasteful and understated in her fancy dress, acknowledged this millenary must with a sparkling ribbon and a few feathers. Perhaps she will start a trend?

by Rosalie Klein



Nicole Hoevertz



Maybelline Arends Croes of the organizing commit-

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Benefiting FAVI, the vision impaired and the blind Divi Links & Divi IMPACT conclude a fundraising golf tournament



Divi Links – A great number of local players and visitors enjoyed the first golf tournament of the year at Divi Links, dedicated to FAVI, caring for the vision impaired and blind persons on Aruba. On hand to support the commendable initiative, Managing Director Alex Nieuwmeyer and his management team. The tournament was organized by Divi IMPACT -- Improving Motivating and Providing the Aruban Community Together -- a not for profit foundation designed to improve the quality of external and internal community service at Divi's five resort properties on the island. IMPACT President Carol Jansen explained that funds for community service are generated via voluntary employee salary deductions, matched by Divi Resort Corporation, and by charitable events, such as the golf tournament.

FAVI clients also participated in the event, presented with delicious cocktails and lovely hors d'oeuvres during the award ceremony at Mulligan's Gold Café, Bar & Restaurant.

The tournament presented a total of Awg 4,165.20 to FAVI, an organization which serves over 250 vision impaired and the blind persons here, ranging in age from a few months to almost 100 years.

First place winners Gallardo Rafael and Roelofs Valk



Jan received a complimentary weekend stay at one of Divi's fine resorts; second place winners Sayers John and Barney Brian received Sunday Brunch at Windows on Aruba. FAVI's Wilhelmina Thiel thanked Divi IMPACT and Divi Links warmly, for the excellent gesture and for helping make the life of the visually impaired and blind more joyful and houdt, and the more meaningful. Closet to the award ceremony.

Pin Neil Russell and Longest Drive Pim Smits, each received a complimentary massage from Indulgence

Pictured here the donation presented to Director Cetty Baarh-Bijl-







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Sci-Tech

Oil giant Saudi Arabia looks to alternative energy



RIYADH (AFP) – With vast oil reserves that are far from exhausted, Saudi Arabia, facing rising domestic energy demand that could cut into its oil exports, has decided to explore nuclear and renewable energy, Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi has said.

"We have started to take the required steps to utilise several energy sources locally, in particular solar and nuclear energy," he told a conference in Riyadh.

The kingdom has massive proven reserves. In November, Naimi put the figure at 264 billion barrels, and said Saudi Arabia was capable of supplying crude for the next 80 years at current production levels "even if we never found another barrel."

However, Saudi Arabia anticipates a rise in domestic energy demand, which within 20 years could see an increase in domestic oil consumption to around eight million barrels per day, approaching its current output, a former commerce minister and head of a Saudi energy

"The demand for electricity is steadily increasing -- it was 40 gigawatts in 2010, and is expected to reach 120 gigawatts in 2032," Hashem Yamani, the director of the King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, told journalists.

research centre said.

At the same time, he said, "local demand for oil, which is currently about 3.2 million barrels per day, could rise to eight million barrels per day

This will ultimately limit the export capacity of the kingdom, and of development," he said. "That is why we are determined to transform a country dependent solely on oil to different sources of energy -- nuclear and renewables."

"Thus we can conserve oil" and keep it for export, said Yamani, adding that the kingdom could produce renewable energy -- solar and wind -- within eight to 10 years and nuclear energy by

"We are consulting with everybody who has technology in these areas -- Koreans, British, Americans, Japanese and French," including the French group Areva, he said, which is a major player in the global nuclear industry.

Areva chief executive Anne Lauvergeon, who was in Riyadh to explore the local market, has stressed that Saudi Arabia is "an important market."

During her visit, Lauvergeon signed an agreement with the Saudi Bin Laden Group on cooperation in the fields of solar and nuclear energy.

and sites to implement it to

be fully effective," Mozilla

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cer Alex Fowler acknowl-

we are taking the step of pro-

posing that this feature be

considered for upcoming re-

privacy

"Mozilla recognizes the chicken and egg problem and

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Chopin's hallucinations caused by epilepsy: scientists



PARIS (AFP) – In the great Polish composer, Frederic Chopin, towering genius combined with a wasted frame and a pallid face behind which lurked melancholy, a brooding over death, a disconnection from ordinary life and sometimes horrifying hallucinations.

A force that created this image was the French novelist George Sand, who described lyrically how her lover, cursed by prodigy and doomed by frailty to an early grave, would be shaken by ghostly visions.

"The phantoms called him, clasped him, and instead of seeing his father and his friend smile at him in the ray of faith, he repelled their fleshless faces from his own and struggled under the grasp of their icy hands," wrote

But a study by a pair of Spanish neurologists tarnishes this compelling gothic tableau.

Chopin's alienation and hallucinations probably had more to do with a medical condition than the burden of the Romantic artist, it suggests.

Manuel Vazquez Caruncho and Francisco Branas Fernandez of the Xeral-Calde Hospital Complex in Lugo draw this conclusion after sifting through contemporary accounts and Chopin's letters.

In 1848, at a concert at a private house in Manchester, northern England, Chopin was playing his Sonata in B flat minor when he abruptly left the room but returned a short while later to finish the piece.

In a letter to George Sand's daughter -- which has never been published in any collection of his correspon-

dence -- Chopin explained that he had been terrified to see "cursed creatures" emerging from the half-open case of his piano.

In other accounts by Sand and one of his pupils, Madame Streicher, Chopin was sometimes seized by a mental state that would leave him wild-eyed and his hair literally standing on end.

The researchers look through the psychiatric states that could possibly explain the great composer's prob-

They rule out schizophrenia out because it usually takes the form of voices.

Migraines can induce hallucinations, but these can last up to half an hour, whereas Chopin's episodes were brief, and lasted only a few minutes or even seconds.

In addition, migraine auras without headache typically occur among patients over the age of 50. Chopin was only 39 when he died, of a respiratory illness.

Another psychiatric disease called Charles Bonnet syndrome is excluded, because it is linked to eye disorders, and there is no evidence that Chopin suffered from these

Chopin did take opium, in the form of a tincture called laudanum, to ease his many physical problems. But the type of hallucinations he had do not correspond to opiumrelated visions -- and he experienced them years before taking the opium.

This leaves one big suspect: epilepsy of the temporal lobes, whose seizures can unleash brief, stereotyped visions of the kind experienced by Chopin and a condition called "jamais vu," or a dream-like disconnection from one's surroundings.

But the patient is not drowsy, nor does he lose a state of consciousness.

The authors point out that epilepsy was poorly understood in Chopin's day and could easily have been overlooked by his doctors, although they freely admit that this is only a "diagnostic

Google and Mozilla take 'Do Not Track' steps that it requires both browsers

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) -Mozilla and Google this week took steps toward giving people more online privacy but each said hurdles remain to creating simple "Do Not Track" buttons for Web browsing software.

Mozilla proposed adding a signal to its popular Firefox browser to let users automatically ask websites not to track their online activities.

Websites would then de-

cide whether to grant the desire or continue to gather data for purposes such as targeting Internet advertising.

Firefox users would be able to broadcast that they page view.
"The challenge with

adding this to the header is

want to opt out of third party, advertising-based tracking by setting browsers to transmit a "Do Not Track HTTP header" with every click or

> Google released extension software for its Chrome browser that lets users opt out of being tracked by a growing set of companies adoptindustry

> > "Keep My Opt-Outs" lets people opt out of having snippets of code referred to as "cookies" installed on their computers to track online behavior for the purpose of targeting ads.

standards regarding online

"Keep in mind that once you install the Keep My Opt-Outs extension, your experience of online ads may change," Google product managers Sean Harvey and Rajas Moonka said in a blog post.



The original cylinder of platinum and iridium used as the standard weight for one kilogram. Scientists said Monday they were moving closer to coming upwith a nonphysical definition of the kilo after discovering the metal artefact used as the international standard had shed a little weight.

Health & Living

Kids who misbehave face trouble as adults: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Children who are over-active, cannot concentrate or act impulsively as early as age three tend to become troubled adults unless they learn self-control along the way, a new study said.

An international team of researchers examined young children in New Zealand and Britain and found that the low-scorers on measures of self-control as kids faced more financial, health and substance abuse problems as they aged.

Measures of low self-control in the study of 1,000 New Zealand children included "low frustration tolerance, lacks persistence in reaching goals, difficulty sticking with a task," said the study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Other indicators were "overactive, acts before thinking, has difficulty waiting turn, restless, not conscientious."

The children who scored lowest on those counts faced a host of problems as adults, "things like breathing problems, gum disease, sexually transmitted disease, inflammation, overweight, and high cho-

lesterol and blood pressure," the study said.

Researchers also saw those children emerge as adults with financial woes, such as credit card debt.

"They also were more likely to be single parents, have a criminal conviction record, and be dependent on alcohol, to-bacco, cannabis and harder drugs," said the study.

"These adult outcomes were predictable across the entire spectrum of self-control scores, from low to high," said Duke University psychologist Terrie Moffitt, lead researcher on the study.

The same researchers also looked at a study of 500 pairs of fraternal twins and Britain and tracked the differences between the lower self-control twin and the higher self-control twin as they aged.

"The sibling with lower self-control scores at age five was more likely than their sibling to begin smoking, perform poorly in school and engage in antisocial behaviors at age 12," the study said.

"This shows that self-control is important by itself, apart from all other factors that siblings share, such as their parents and home life," said Caspi.

The researchers said they found evidence that children who changed their ways and learn to exert more self-control fared better in adulthood than their counterparts, indicating that behavior changes can show positive results.

'Rogue gene' discovery could brake cancers, says study

PARIS,France (AFP) – Scientists said their discovery of a "rogue gene" could stop the spread of most late-stage cancers, providing one day the right drug is found.

Known as WWP2, the gene controls an enzyme which attacks a natural inhibitor that prevents cancer cells from spreading.

Researchers at the University of East Anglia in eastern England found that by blocking the action of WWP2, levels of this inhibitor are boosted and cancer cells cannot reproduce.

Lead author Andrew Chantry said that the work threw open new avenues of investigation into stopping metastastis, or when cancer starts to spread aggressively, especially in breast, brain, colon and skin tissues.

"The challenge now is to identify a potent drug that will get inside cancer cells and destroy the activity of the rogue gene," said Chantry.

"This is a difficult but not impossible task, made easier by the deeper understanding of the biological processes revealed in this study."

If such a drug were found, conventional therapies and surgery could be used on primary tumours without the risk that the disease could spread elsewhere.

The lab-dish breakthrough came in a probe of a group of cancer-cell inhibitors called "Smads."

The paper was published on in the journal Oncogene by Britain's Nature Publishing Group.



Southeast Asia facing new 'health crisis'



BANGKOK, Thailand (AFP) – Southeast Asia's 600 million people are facing a raft of new health challenges as the disaster-prone region undergoes some of the world's fastest social change, medical papers published said.

"A health crisis is transpiring right before our eyes," warned a paper in the series, published by The Lancet journal, which said chronic diseases such as cancer now account for 60 percent of deaths in the region.

It was also dubbed a "hotspot" for emerging and difficult-to-control infectious diseases, with outbreaks in avian flu fuelling fears about the possibility of new pandemics spreading from Southeast Asia.

"The pace of demographic change in the region is one of

the fastest worldwide, whether it is due to population ageing, fertility decline, or rural to urban migration," said the papers. "As elsewhere, the disease burden continues to shift from infectious to chronic diseases, yet increased urban population density has created concerns about emerging infectious diseases."

The reports also point to Southeast Asia being one of the world's most disaster-prone regions, with the environment responsible for up to a quarter of all deaths in an area regularly hit by monsoons and typhoons.

Weather phenomena such as El Nino also "intensify the annual variation of the hot and wet climate, leading to droughts, floods and the occurrence of infectious diseases such as malaria and cholera," said one of the papers.

"Climate change could exacerbate the spread of emerging infectious diseases in the region, especially vector-borne diseases linked to rises in temperature and rainfall," such as dengue, it added.

Deforestation and other human encroachment on wildlife habitats were said to heighten the potential for germs to cross species barriers, as they increase interactions between wildlife, humans and livestock.

Controlling these diseases is difficult given the variety of economies and health systems across the nations analysed: Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

City state Singapore, for example, has a gross domestic product per head of \$37,500, while in largely rural Laos the equivalent figure is \$890.

Political tensions within and between countries "have the potential to further hinder control" of emerging infections, said the papers, which called for improved surveillance of these health threats across the region.

They also called for urgent action to tackle Southeast Asia's "epidemic of non-communicable disease", including heart disease, stemming from environmental factors promoting tobacco use, unhealthy diet and inadequate physical activity. "Unless nations recognise the problem and take appropriate action, premature death and disability will continue, hindering development where development is needed most."



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RBTT entertains San Nicolas Corporative clients and introduces a new branch

SAN NICOLAS – Recently, RBTT held a reception for its San Nicolas corporate clients and welcomed them to the new branch in the Arubus Mall, centrally located at the eastern end of Aruba.

Among the invited guests was Governor Fredis Refunjol, Minister of Finance, Communication, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Meza and President of the San Nicolas Business Association (SBNA) Greg Peterson

President & Country Head of RBTT Bank Aruba N.V., Edna Farro, personally greeted all, thanking them for their presence, and expressed her satisfaction for the honor of introducing the new premises. "For a long time we wanted to set up a new branch in San Nicolas to encompass the two previous; the integration of all of them into one building offers our clients improved and more convenient service under one roof. Thos spacious building offers more privacy and personal attention. We are very happy with the cooperation we received from Arubus in realizing this project," she concluded.

Afterwards, Mrs. Farro joined with Managing Director & VP Business Banking, Pierre Rafini, in making the customary donations on such a venture to three charity foundations: Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan, Meals on Wheels and Stichting Casa Cuna Progreso.

RBTT Bank thanked them for their fine work, affirming they could count on the bank's support to continue helping our community. The three foundations expressed their sincere gratitude for the bank's continuing support and generosity.

Photos show moments of the entertaining evening.



Governor Refunjol flanked by Pierre Rafini and Edna Farro





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smallest needs of the modern women. They will cater to all your needs.

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ShabbyShic is known as a fashionhouse, besides their dress collection they are also known for everything that is fashion related, ranging from clothing, belts, bags, shoes and jewelry. Customers will instantaneously fall in love with what they have.



ShabbyShic is located at Avenida Milio Croes 12. Opening hours are from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. nonstop from Monday thru Saterday.

ShabbyShic is a very unique store on the island of Aruba and you will surely enjoy the ambience the store gives to its customers!!!





Bringing the Torah to the temple under the huppa



Reverently touching the Torah

It is a rare and remarkable occasion in the life of any Jewish person anywhere in the world to participate in a Siyyum Sefer Torah, the occasion of welcoming a new, Kosher Torah into the synagogue, and members of the congregation of Temple Beth Israel of Aruba were so blessed on Monday evening, January 24.

The tiny Jewish community was faced with a dilemma; they were informed by their spiritual leader, Rabbi Dr. Mario Gurevich, that the existing Torah scrolls, which have rested in the Ark of the temple



The congregation sings and dances around the new Torah

sanctuary more than 50 years, were ravaged by time and tropical weather. For a scroll to be truly kosher it must be absolutely perfect, and the community did not have the funds to acquire a new one, which takes at least a year to be made by a special scribe, or Sofer, trained for this holy task. It is written with quill pens on a specially prepared parchment called Klaf, and even the ink is a unique compound of powdered gall nuts, copper sulfate, gum arabic and water, prepared in very small amounts so it will always be fresh for each writing session. When all the scrolls are completed without any imperfections, they are then stitched together with thread called giddin, then sewn onto wooden rollers called Atzei Chavim, (Tree of Life.) There are over 4000 laws a Sofer must know before they are qualified to produce a Sefer Torah. There are 304.805 characters in a Sefer Torah, and each must be flawless, as must be the spelling of each name and place. The Sofer and an assistant proof read and check the written parchments 3 times for any errors.

The Sefer Torah contains The Five Books of Moshe Rabaynu (Moses the Teacher) and is the holiest of all books of Tanakh. The Tanakh is also known as the Masoretic Text or the Miqra. The name is an acronym formed from the initial Hebrew letters of the Masoretic Text's three traditional subdivisions: The Torah ("Teaching," also known as the Five Books of Moses), Nevi'im ("Prophets") and Ketuvim ("Writings")—hence TaNaKh.

Temple member Judith Lindenfeld and her daughter Vivien Ressler responded to the needs of her temple with a great mitzvah; a kind act which comes from the heart, and purchased a new Sefer Torah for Temple Beth Israel. It was donated in the name of Vivien's son, Jordan Alexander, who died in an accident 6 years ago at the age of 23. "Jordan was always active and involved in his faith," recalled Judith and Vivien, "we believe this donation in his name would have meaning for him, and we feel it is a proper tribute to his memory."

Judith and Vivien performed the ritual ceremony of bringing the new Torah into the

shul accompanied by an honor guard that held the huppa, a holy canopy. The torah was joyously greeted by the congregation with song and dance, and temple members each took a turn parading the new torah around the sanctuary while others greeted it with a kiss. Along with the new acquisition were also two of the Beth Israel's old holy scrolls, returned after being restored and declared sefer, thanks to the generosity of temple members David Cybul and Benjamin Pick. After prayers of welcome and blessing the scrolls were placed in the Aron HaKodesh. Judith and Vivien graciously hosted a celebratory dinner in the social hall following the welcoming service.

"The perfection of these scrolls is so important that no matter what are our religious positions, from the extreme Reform to the ultra-Orthodoxy, we all agree in this point," explained Rabbi Dr. Gurevich. "For the first time, our Congregation will own 3 Kosher Sifre Torah, which is a matter of holiness and a milestone in our Jewish life."

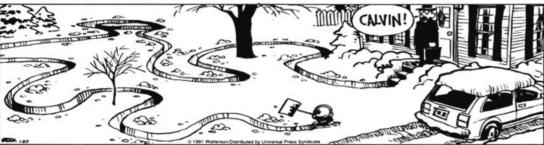
By Rosalie Klein



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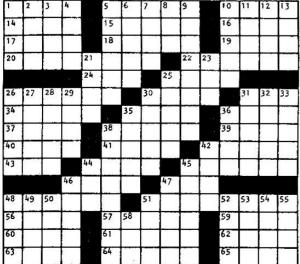
ZOUNDS

Solve this crossword in the usual fashion, except where there is an asterisk (*) put a word which sounds the same as the answer to the clue but is spelled differently into the diagram. For example, if the answer to the clue were TEE, you would put TEA into the diagram. This is tricky, so listen careful to the "zounds"!

ACROSS

- 1. Moslem official
- 5. Slack-jawed observer
- 10. Tete-a-tete
- 14. Put . appearance: 2 wds.
- 15. Soloing
- 16. Atmosphere: prefix
- *17. Rule
- 18. Dark horse's victory
- *19. Genuflect
- *20. Waterway 22. Tristan's bride
- *24. Small peg
- 25. Sacred image
- *26. Singing groups 30. Winning cards
- 31. "Powerful" agcy.
- 34. Beneath 35. Rotate
- 36. Seed covering
- 37. Fusses

- *38. Swoon
- 39. Metal fastener
- 40. Sediment
- *41. Twist
- *42. "A ___ for Adano"
- 43. Freudian concerns
- 44. Noted puzzle-editor Will
- *45. Vendor
- *46. Press for payment
- 47. Put up vegetables
- 48. Secret
- *51. Certain warriors
- *56. Cold
- 57. Coronet
- *59. Shoe-width letters
- 60. Dash 61. Fort Knox unit
- 62. Cultural org.
- 63. Tennis rounds
- *64. Social classes
- *65. These are sometimes made
- of clay



DOWN

- 1. Legatees
- 2. Singer Cole
- 3. Jackrabbit
- 4. Tolstoy's
- 5. Personal pledges
- 6. Omega's reciprocal
- 7. Mail
- 8. Chemical suffix 9. Not prone to
- loquaciousness
- *10. Artillery piece
- *11. Cure
- 12. Bone dry
- *13. Tariff 21. Roman road
- 23. Distress signal
- 25. Frosting
- 26. Almost
- 27. Loosened *28. Runs at minimum speed
- *29. Take by force
- 30. Copying
- 31. Folklore character
- 32. Country estate *33. Sacrificial platform
- *35. Rational
- *36. Up to the task 38. Chaotically active
- 42. Bolivian river
- *44. _ _ for the road
- *45. Favorites of Bugs Bunny *46. Structures built by 31
- Across 47. French painter
- 48. Metric measures
- *49. Cylinder
- *50. Shelter for sheep or pigs
- 51. Jokes
- *52. Gladly *53. Reclined
- 54. Nora Charles's dog
- _-of-the-pants
- 58. Actress Claire



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Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9 A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must

contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

FINANCE BRIEFS:

France signs contested Russia warship deal

SAINT-NAZAIRE, France (AFP) - France inked a lucrative agreement to sell four Mistral warships to Moscow, with two to be built in Russia, in a move bitterly opposed by ex-Soviet states in the Baltics.

The deal for the amphibious assault ships will be the first sale to Russia of such technology by a NATO country.

France's NATO allies -- in particular Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia -- have expressed concern about arming Russia with modern Western weaponry.

Leaked diplomatic cables showed that US Defence Secretary Robert Gates also raised Washington's concerns while on a visit to Paris last year.

The deal was announced while President Nicolas Sarkozy was visiting the STX naval shipyards in the western port of Saint-Nazaire where the vessels will be built in partnership with France's state-owned military contractor DCNS.

US Fed meets, expected to maintain stimulus WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Federal Reserve policymakers are likely to tread water when they meet this week, leaving crisis measures in place, as debate rages beneath the surface over when to stop priming the recovery.

A revamped Federal Open Market Committee -- the Fed's interest rate setting panel -- will gather for a two-day meeting, when members are expected to continue to unfurl a \$600-billion stimulus designed to jolt the US economy out of its slumber.

Despite signs that the recovery is picking up, the Fed is expected to keep its foot on the accelerator, continuing emergency bonds purchases that prime the economy and keeping interest rates at ultra-low levels.

"It is still far too soon to go back to thinking about an exit strategy," said Peter Ireland, a Boston College economist and former Federal Reserve adviser.

But the brighter economic picture has given voice to the Fed's detractors, who argue the bank must ready itself for a return to more sustainable policies or else risk stoking inflation.

Germany wants fewer A400M planes: official

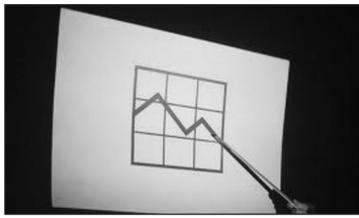
BERLIN (AFP) – Germany now wants just 40 of the 53 Airbus A400M military transport planes it has ordered, a parliamentary official said, handing more bad news to the trouble-plagued project. Deputies from the ruling coalition parties will present the revised project to the budgetary committee which will then devise a plan for cutting the spending on the A400M, said Juergen Koppelin, the parliament's defence budget rapporteur.

The A400M has been plagued by setbacks, with the aircraft's first flight postponed to a date that has yet to be determined because of engine problems. It is the second time in months that Germany has sought to cut its complement of A400Ms. In November, it reduced its firm order from 60 planes to the current

••••••

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IMF sees faster growth but recovery 'still at risk'



JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AFP) – The global economic recovery is gaining traction but is "still at risk" because of eurozone debt worries and a lack of financial reform, the International Monetary Fund said.

The Washington-based institution said a two-speed recovery -- with advanced economies growing at a significantly slower pace than emerging economies -- was shifting gears as tax cuts in the United States boosted consumption.

The IMF projected the global economy's output would expand by 4.4 percent in 2011, slightly higher than the 4.2 percent annual rate it forecast in October.

Its latest updates, released in Johannesburg, highlighted an improving but mixed global economic picture.

"In advanced economies, activity has moderated less than expected, but growth remains subdued, unemployment is still high, and renewed stresses in the euro area periphery are contributing to downside risks," the IMF said.

"This reflects strongerthan-expected activity in the second half of 2010 as well as

YESTERDAY'S

SPAS

OMITORATIONS

CANIMAGEPEA

COPRAGRIN

STAINSOOPS

Crossword Answer

new policy initiatives in the United States that will boost activity this year," it added.

The global annual pace of growth, however, would still be slower than the 5.0 percent seen in 2010. The banking sector remains volatile, Jose Vinals, the IMF's director of monetary and capital markets, told reporters in Johannesburg.

The IMF said a new US fiscal package passed in late 2010 was expected to boost growth in the world's biggest economy by 0.5 percent.

The US economy had the sharpest markup by far: a 0.7 point gain to GDP growth of 3.0 percent in 2011.

However, Olivier Blanchard, the IMF's director for research, said joblessness would continue to blight America.

"We have a long way to go... we have to accept the fact that there is going to be an unemployment problem for a long time," he told AFP, also urging China to heed Washington's call to speed up the yuan's appreciation.

"It would be a good thing for China and for the rest of the world," he said.

Growth in emerging economies remained "buoyant" but inflation pressures persist and there are signs of overheating in part from capital inflows as investors chase higher yields.

Policymakers in the emerging economies, which account for more than two-thirds of global growth, should take steps to keep overheating pressures in check, the 187-nation institution said.

The IMF also warned of risks from the financial and debt crises in eurozone countries such as Greece and Ireland, amid tepid progress in financial reforms.

"The most urgent requirements for robust recovery are comprehensive and rapid actions to overcome sovereign and financial troubles in the euro area and policies to redress fiscal imbalances and to repair and reform financial systems in advanced economies more generally," it said.

There is also a need to stepup eurozone financial support for member countries in need, and to ensure better stress tests on banks, the IMF said.

"Markets remain skittish about potential losses in the region's banks and have not been assuaged by stress tests conducted to date."

The IMF forecast commodity prices would remain high in 2011 in response to strong global demand and it hiked its oil price per barrel estimate to nearly \$90, from the October figure of \$79, citing robust demand.

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



novative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and fami- lies, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline

Aruba's newest and most in- pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

> Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All



Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments. activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Grandma's stoba with classic rice and beans and homemade potato beet salad

One of the distinctions of into local cuisine. "We will Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban res- taurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

still in the kitchen, conjuring Queen's is open from 11:00 up the delicious dishes that a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offerhave been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with aside from an extensive menu; 'Carni Stoba di Mamachi"-'Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right.'

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor Varella's mom, Luisa, is at the end of the Weststraat, The ing indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, made from whatever is in sea-

> We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!



Music industry takes to the digital cloud

CANNES, France (AFP) – Music is taking to the clouds after Sony said it is expanding its cloud-based digital Music Unlimited service around Europe to enable fans to access music on their digital devices.

After being launched in Britain and Ireland, Sony's "Music Unlimited powered by Qriocity" service, is being extended to France, Germany, Spain and Italy, Sony said in an announcement to coincide with Sunday's opening of the MIDEM music industry convention on the French Riviera.

The subscription service will be competing with a fast-growing number of free and paying music streaming services that include Spotify, Pandora, Last.fm, Groove Shark and We7.

Cloud-based services differ from the music streaming services that download onto a computer by allowing users to house all their music on a remote server (or cloud) as well as giving them access to millions of tracks.

The cloud also acts as a "locker" for their own music

collection so that users can access their music on different devices.

The big question mark is



whether these services will bring the new revenue for the music industry, particularly after Nokia closed down its unlimited music service in most of the 33 markets in which it operated.

One potential new market is the auto industry, after Ford announced it would integrate the US-based Internet mobile radio streaming service, Pandora, into its new vehicles. Sony-Cloud services are attracting a lot of attention at MIDEM this year, as they promise to help music lovers connect their music to a host of digital devices at home and on the move.

Facebook film tipped as Oscars nods unveiled



LOS ANGELES (AFP) – Face-book movie "The Social Network" hopes to make even more friends when nominees are unveiled for this year's Oscars awards, the highpoint of Hollywood's annual awards season.

Rivals vying for Academy Awards glory include British historical drama "The King's Speech," which many say could come good at the Oscars despite its disappointing Golden Globes showing earlier this month.

Movies also likely in the running for Oscars awards next month include Globes winners "Black Swan" and "The Fighter", lesbian parenting film "The Kids are Alright" and the Coen brothers' update of the Western classic "True Grit".

Hollywood watchers claim one of the safest Oscar bets is Colin Firth for best actor as the stammering King George VI, while Natalie Portman is tipped for best actress for her role in ballet-themed drama "Black Swan."

Jeff Bridges also has a buzz behind him for what would be his second Oscar in a row for "True Grit", while actress tips include Julianne Moore and Annette Bening from "The Kids Are Alright," or Nicole Kidman for "Rabbit Hole".

The best director shortlist is

expected to include "Social Network" director David Fincher, Tom Hooper for "The King's Speech" and Christopher Nolan for thriller "Inception".

The nominations for the Oscars, by far the most prestigious of Tinseltown's awards season, will be unveiled at 5:30 am (1330 GMT) on Tuesday, launching the final straight toward the February 27 Academy Awards show.

"The Social Network" grabbed four Golden Globes, including Best Picture, on January 17, in what is traditionally seen as an indicator of success at the Academy Awards.

The Facebook movie, about how Mark Zuckerberg founded the social networking site, also won best director Globe for Fincher as well as best screenplay and best score.

"The King's Speech" scored only one Globe -- best actor for Firth -- while there were two for boxing movie "The Fighter" and one for "Black Swan," with Portman for best actress.

But industry observers note that the British royal movie could do better at the Oscars because it is better suited to the tastes of the 6,000-plus members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The British movie, about

King George VI's battle with a stammer, also got a small boost over the weekend when it won best picture award at the Producers Guild of America awards.

The Los Angeles Times noted that, for the past two decades, the Producers Guild of America results have correctly forecast the Oscar best picture 13 times.

"There's a good chance that 'The King's Speech' will score the most Oscar bids," said the newspaper's awards-watching correspondent, predicting as many as 11 nods for the British movie.

The producers' show was the latest in a string of ceremonies that make up the annual awards season. Others still to come include the Screen Actors Guild prizes on January 30.

But for insiders, the Oscars are the multi-billion-dollar industry's real deal, and much of Hollywood will therefore up before dawn when the nominations will be made known.

The announcements are to be made by last year's supporting-actress winner Mo'Nique, joined by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Tom Sherak.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the Oscars nominations, nominees for Hollywood's Oscars spoof the Razzies were revealed Monday, with the "Sex and the City" sequel and the final installment of teen vampire series "Twilight" top of the flops.

Jennifer Aniston, Ashton Kutcher, Robert Pattinson, Miley Cyrus and Barbra Streisand were also nominated by the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation, which organizes the annual salute to the worst of the worst.

Dutch police 'bait' bicycle thieves



THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) – Police in a city in the bicycle-crazy Netherlands, fed up with high levels of theft, said they are leaving out two-wheelers secretly equipped with trackers to catch thieves.

"Bicycle theft is a type of criminality that often goes

unpunished," police spokeswoman Cornelie Hogeveen told AFP of the project in the central Dutch city of Amersfoort, which had a population of 144,858 and 900 bicycle thefts in 2010 -- 10 percent of the city's total reported crimes.

In a six-month pilot project that started December 10, so-called "bait bikes" are being placed in different spots around town, "sometimes locked and sometimes not," said a police statement.

The lures "look just like normal bikes," according to Hogeveen.

Whenever a bike is removed, the police pick up its Global Positioning System (GPS) signal and start a trace.

"Sometimes the thief is already gone, sometimes we find other stolen bikes," the spokeswoman said.

"It is a form of criminality that affects many in the Netherlands," she added. "Not only do they risk having their bikes stolen, but also buying a stolen bike."

The Netherlands, which counts an estimated 18 million bicycles for 16.5 million inhabitants, registered a total 515,000 bicycle thefts in 2009, according to AVC, an organisation that tracks vehicle theft statistics

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Van Bommel leaves Bayern for AC Milan



BERLIN (AFP) - Bayern Munich captain Mark van Bommel on Tuesday joined Italian side AC Milan, five months before his contract was due to expire, the German giants have announced.

"It was Mark's express wish to be released from his contract early for sporting reasons, in order to be able to move to AC Milan immediately," Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

"Mark was always a model professional, an important and successful player for Bayern Munich, and also

a fantastic captain."

Bayern gave no financial details, but reports said that with van Bommel's contract due to expire at the end of the season, his move to the Italian giants was a free transfer.

German daily Bild said that van Bommel's relations with Bayern coach, compatriot Louis van Gaal, had hit an all-time low and the Dutch midfielder has admitted in an interview he did not say goodbye to van Gaal.

Van Bommel had become worried that he could spend a lot of the second-half of the Bundesliga season on the bench and could lose his captain's armband because he no longer fitted in with van Gaal's plans, Bild said.

The Dutch hardman joined Bayern in 2006 in a six-million-euro move from Barcelona, playing 123 times, scoring 11 goals and helping the Bavarians to two Bundesliga and cup titles.

"I am leaving Bayern Munich with a heavy heart but

with my head held high," said the 33-year-old Dutchman.

"I have spent four and a half very nice and successful years here and would like to thank the club and the fans for this.

"Bayern Munich will always have a place in my heart."

After Bayern signed Brazilian midfielder Luis Gustavo from Hoffenheim during January's winter break, van Bommel's position was under threat, but the Dutch star says that was not the reason he has quit Munich.

"It was a purely sporty decision (to leave)," he said.

"Two years ago, Bayern signed several new players, so this is not a new situation.

"I played in recent matches, even though Gustavo was already here.

"I do not worry about other players. I am 33 years old and have been a professional since 1992, so I know what I can and can't do.

"And I know that I could have helped Bayern Munich.

"Each player must always fight for his place and that I also always done that.

"I have fullest confidence in myself, and if I had remained, I would have played."

Winter World Cup would pose no problem: Platini

ROME (AFP) - Switching the dates of the 2022 World Cup finals to be hosted by Gulf state Qatar from its tradtional mid year date to December would not be a problem, claimed European football's supremo Michel Platini.

FIFA's decision to award the World Cup to Qatar - a tiny oil-rich nation where temperatures in summer regularly soar past 43 degrees - has attracted a firestorm of controversy.

But UEFA president Platini said that despite protests raised by Europe's major leagues over the disruption that would cause he could see it being switched.

"If we played in summer,

the matches could be played in temperatures of 55 degrees," said the former France football great, who was praised widely for his heading up the organising of the 1998 finals.

"It is because of this that I have given my assent to the possibility of playing it in the winter, but that does not mean everything should be turned on its head.

"That depends on the federations and the clubs, and the important things is that all this should be addressed to FIFA, who have the final say on the international calendar.

"If we all decide to suspend the domestic championships for a month-and-a-half from December to January, it won't be a huge problem, in fact no problem at all in my opinion," added Platini.

ion," added Platini.
FIFA president Sepp Blatter had already expressed his desire to switch to winter dates, though he was rebuffed by Asian football chief Mohamed Bin Hammam.

Bin Hammam told Sky News in an interview on January 14 that he was "unimpressed" by Blatter's suggestion.

He also took aim at remarks by Platini earlier in January that the 2022 tournament could be a "Gulf World Cup", with matches taking place in several countries surrounding Qatar.

Klinsmann backs Ballack to lead Germany again

BERLIN (AFP) - With Germany set to face Italy in a friendly on February 9, ex-national coach Jurgen Klinsmann has backed Michael Ballack to lead his country again in their Euro 2012 campaign.

Ballack made his comeback after four months off with a leg injury on Sunday in Leverkusen's 3-1 win at Moenchengladbach in the German league.

The 34-year-old had a torrid time in 2010 as an ankle

injury in May ruled him out of the World Cup in South Africa, only for him to then fracture his leg during only his third game back in September.

Ballack is just two caps short of his 100th appearance for Germany, but Bayern Munich's Philipp Lahm is expected to captain the national team against the Italians, as he did at the World Cup.

Pundits in the German media have questioned whether Ballack will play for

the national side again, let alone captain the side, but Klinsmann is backing Ballack to lead Germany at Euro 2012 in the Ukraine and Poland. The Germans currently dominate their qualifying group.

"I hope that he is our captain at Euro 2012, his personality on the field is something which should not be underestimated," Klinsmann, who coached Germany at the 2006 World Cup, told German newspaper The Heilbronner Stimme.

Nadal not shirty about wolf whistles

MELBOURNE (AFP) - Rafael Nadal says he has a good feeling when
women wolf-whistle and snap photos of him changing sweaty shirts
during his tennis matches. The Spanish world number one has a legion
of fans around the world and he wows the females, old and young
alike, when his shirts come off to expose his powerful physique.

Nadal was at it again during his straight sets fourth round victory over Marin Cilic in the night match at the Australian Open in Melbourne on Monday.

Asked how he felt when women whistled and took photos of him changing his shirt, Nadal flashed his trademark smile and said: "That's a very good feeling."

Nadal is set to become the new face of the spring/summer collection by Giorgio Armani after a recent photo shoot.

Rafa posed topless in a pair of jeans and also in a pair of white undies with the black and white photographs to appear on billboards next month.

"It was a long experience, but very good experience, no?" he said.

"It's always nice to experience different worlds. The fashion world is something that I didn't know before.

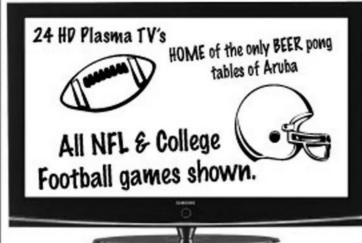
"It was a good session of photos, a long one, but hopefully the results will be satisfactory.

"I worked very hard, seriously. So, yeah, it was nice and a different experience and I enjoyed it."

Asked by a female reporter at his post-match conference if he felt he was sexy in the photos, he said: "I'm not the right person to say. But what do you think? Do you like it?"

The reporter said yes, to which Nadal replied: "I'm happy if you like it."







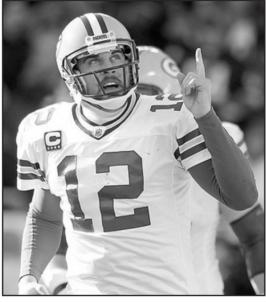
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Steelers, Packers are off to Super Bowl 45

Continued from pg 16





The Packers advanced to their first Super Bowl in 13 years with a 21-14 victory over long-time rival Chicago, who could not overcome a quarterback crisis in the NFC championship game.

B.J. Raji scored on a 18yard interception return and Rodgers ran for another touchdown as the Packers held off a late charge by Chicago to reach the Super Bowl 45.

"This is a dream come true, incredible feeling. I am at a loss for words," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "We just had enough points on offense and B.J. had an incredible touch-

Raji's interception run to

up 21-7 in the fourth quarter and provided the deciding points as Green Bay became the first No. 6 seed from the National Conference to make it to the Super Bowl.

Pittsburgh punched their ticket to the showcase event by beating the New York Jets 24-19 in the second semi-final.

The Steelers are headed to their eighth Super Bowl appearance overall and it is their third trip in the past six years.

Like the Packers, the Steelers booked their Super Bowl berth by building a sizeable advantage early, then nearly blowing the lead in the second half.

Rodgers rushed for a one-

the end zone put the Packers yard touchdown on the game's opening drive, giving Green Bay a lead they would never surrender.

Rodgers, in his third season as the Packers' starting quarterback, easily won the battle of former first-round NFL Draft picks.

Rodgers was selected by Green Bay in the first round (24th overall) in the 2005 entry draft. Chicago's Cutler was chosen 11th overall in 2006.

In Pittsburgh, the Jets spotted the Steelers a 24-point lead as William Gay's defensive touchdown helped make it a lopsided opening half.

The Jets battled back behind quarterback Mark Sanchez who threw two second half touchdown passes, including one to Jerricho Cotchery that pulled New York within 24-19 with just over three minutes in the fourth quarter.

But Steelers Roethlisberger had the last laugh. completing a first-down pass to Heath Miller late in the fourth as the Jets ran out of

Djokovic sets up Federer semi showdown



MELBOURNE (AFP) Novak Djokovic was outstanding in mastering Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych in three intense sets to reach the semi-finals of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The Serbian third seed and 2008 champion won 6-1, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in 2hr 32min and will now face defending champion Roger Federer, who he beat in the semi-finals on the way to his maiden Grand Slam title.

Djokovic had to work hard to get past the big-hitting Berdych and once he secured the second set in a tiebreaker it was all downhill from there.

"I have to be very happy with the performance," he said. "Maybe the turning point was the tiebreak in the second set where it went my way.

"If it's one set all, then it's a totally different match. Two sets up, it's a big advantage and I was starting to go for shots more in the third.

Djokovic will now get the chance to repeat his classic 2008 semi-final upset victory over Federer, who won through to the last four with a comfortable victory over his Swiss Davis Cup teammate Stanislas Wawrinka earlier Tuesday.

"So far it's been great. Tonight was a real test, because he's number six in the world and a very difficult opponent. I've played

Defending champion Roger Federer demolfellow ished Wawrinka to reach his eighth straight Australian Open semi-final.

Women's top seed Caroline Wozniacki survived a thrilling quarter-final with tenacious Italian Francesca Schiavone and will now need to beat Li Na, who ratcheted up Chinese hopes of a first Grand Slam singles title.

Federer, who can become only the second man to win five Australian Opens after Roy Emerson (six), showed no mercy against close friend Wawrinka as he took him apart 6-1, 6-3, 6-3 in just 1hr 47 min on Rod Laver Arena.

Federer, 29, can equal Andre Agassi's record 46 hard-court titles and derail top seed Rafael Nadal's "Rafa Slam", a non-calendar year Grand Slam which would unite all four major trophies for the first time since 1969.

But he will have his work cut out against Djokovic.

Meanwhile, Wozniacki overcame a tiring Francesca Schiavone 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the semi-finals, a result which also ensures she stays as number one when the new rankings are published next week.

În Thursday's semis, Wozniacki will meet Li Na, who lifted Chinese hopes to fever pitch after she weathered an early storm from Germany's Andrea Petkovic to reach her second straight Australian Open semi-final.

A maiden Grand Slam singles title would be considered a huge boost to tennis in China, where the sport has been growing exponentially after it hosted a series of top tournaments and produced its first competitive players.



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Steelers, Packers are off to Super Bowl 45



CHICAGO (AFP) - Green Bay and Pittsburgh punched their tickets to the Super Bowl, building substantial first-half leads then surviving late scares before holding on to win their NFL semi-final games Sunday.

Green Bay will face Ben Roethlisberger's Steelers February 6 at Cowboys Stadium in

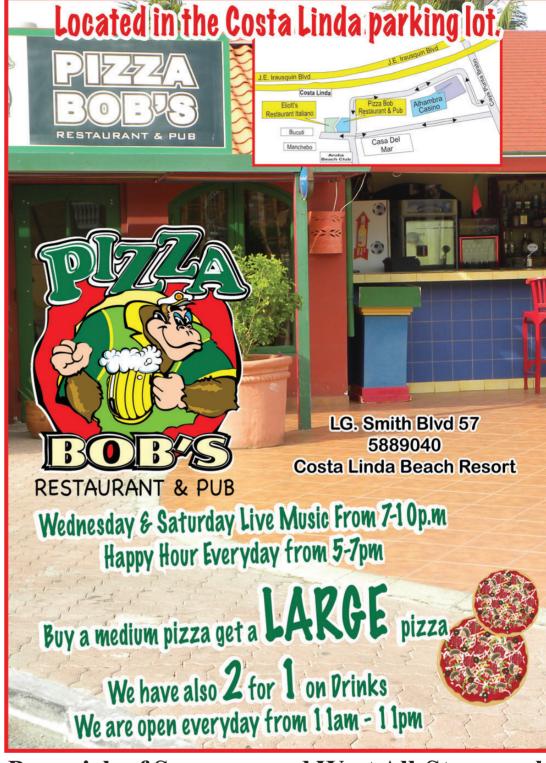


Texas.

The Packers advanced to their first Super Bowl in 13 years with a 21-14 victory over long-time rival Chicago.

Pittsburgh punched their ticket to the showcase event by beating the New York Jets 24-19 in the second semi-final.

Continue story on Pg 15



Popovich of Spurs named West All-Star coach

NEW YORK (AFP) - Gregg Popovich, coach of the NBA overall pace-setting San Antonio Spurs, was named on Tuesday as coach for the Western Conference in next month's NBA All-Star Game

at Los Angeles.

Under the guidance of Popovich, the Spurs are off to a club record 38-7 start with

the best record in the NBA so far this season, four games better than Eastern Conference leader Boston.

Popovich, who previously guided the West All-Stars in 2005, has coached the Spurs to four titles in his 14 prior seasons as the team's coach.

The West squad will face an East lineup whose coach

has not yet been determined in the 60th annual showcase of superstars on February 20.

All-Star coaches are those whose club has the best record in its conference in games through February 6, with those who guided last year's All-Stars inelgible to repeat the honor.



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